

RESOLUTION NUMBER 222
INVESTIGATING THE MERITS OF PROPOSITION R

WHEREAS, as per the St. Louis City Charter Article V – Initiatives –Section 1 Use authorized; The people shall have power, at their option, to proposed ordinances, including ordinances proposing amendments to this charter, and to adopt the same at the polls with the same effect as if adopted by the board of aldermen and approved by the mayor, such power being known as the initiative. It shall be exercised as hereinafter provided, subject to the provision of this charter; and

WHEREAS, as per the St. Louis City Charter Article V – Initiatives –Section 4 – Certification of petition; submission of proposed ordinances to voters, states: If the board of election commissioners find that the petition, with supplements, if any, is sufficient, it shall forthwith certify that fact, together with a copy of the petition, omitting signatures, to the board of aldermen; and

WHEREAS, The City Charter goes on to state in pertinent part: Unless the proposed ordinance is, without amendment, adopted and approved by the mayor, or adopted, without amendment, over his veto, within sixty days after the regular meeting of the board of aldermen next after said certification; Said board of election commissioners shall thereupon provide for submitting said proposed ordinance, in its original form, to the voters at the first election at which such submission may lawfully be had; and

WHEREAS, On or about September 30, 2021 the members of the Board of Aldermen received from the Board's Clerk a correspondence from the Board of Election Commission regarding the sufficiency of the Citizen Initiative Petition known as Proposition R; and

WHEREAS, Proposition R is a proposed ordinance that seeks to amend the St. Louis City Charter and proposes to among other things change Redistricting without any proof that the proposed changes are not already being done or would be an improvement to the method currently done by the Board of Aldermen, City of St. Louis and to seeks to permanently imbed into our City Charter the very problematic, unfair and undemocratic ordinance known as Proposition; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, a Citizen Initiative Petition known as Ordinance Proposition D was passed and implemented that same month for elections filings that occurred a few days later and elections that occurred in March and April 2021; and

WHEREAS, Proposition D has caused some very undemocratic outcomes such as candidates getting more than 50 percent of the vote in the March 2021 Municipal City Election and winning by a margin of hundreds of votes only to have the losing candidate from the March 2021 election win by less than 20 votes in the April 2021 election or in cases there were only 2 candidates one candidate getting over 70 percent of the vote and the other getting less than 30 percent of the vote in the March 2021 election and still having the two candidates have to run another election against one another; and

WHEREAS, Proposition D has caused some other problems such as forcing candidates to seek election as a non-partisan election only to be elected to the Board of Aldermen and declare themselves a partisan candidate such as a Democrat which seems to be a fraud upon the voters forced by Proposition D; and

WHEREAS, Proposition D was not properly vetted before this esteemed Board of Aldermen and has been shown to have many loopholes and faulty outcomes because the legislation did not properly address other ordinances and the prevailing City Charter; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the proposed amendments to the Charter of the City of St. Louis which would be implemented by Proposition R be vetted thoroughly by this esteemed Board as would any proposed ordinance or Charter Amendment proposed by the Board of Aldermen would be so properly vetted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honorable Board of Aldermen require that a Committee of the Board of Aldermen have a hearing or hearings to examine and vet the Proposed City Ordinance and Charter Changes known as Proposition R which is being brought through the Initiative process and the City will have an election on said proposed changed in April of 2022.

Introduced this 11th day of March, 2022 by:
The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward

Adopted this 11th day of March, 2022 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis Reed
President, Board of Aldermen